

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ALEXANDER ALHOVSKY,

Plaintiff

ANSWER

-against-

07 CV 7628 (CM) (DFE)

THOMAS RYAN, NEW YORK CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT DETECTIVES "1-5," NEW YORK
CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS "1-10,"
JACK T. LINN, STEVE SIMON, RAY BROWN,
BARBARA BROWN, and the NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION,

Defendants.
-----X

Defendants, Thomas Ryan, Jack T. Linn, Steve Simon, Ray Brown and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation ("Parks Department"), by their attorney, MICHAEL A. CARDOZO, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, for their answer to the complaint, respectfully allege:

1. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "1" of the complaint.

2. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "2" of the complaint, except admit that the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") is an agency of the City of New York established pursuant to Chapter 18, Section 431, et seq. of the New York City Charter ("City Charter"), and admit that the City of New York is a municipal corporation, incorporated pursuant to the laws of the State of New York.

3. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "3" of the complaint, except admit that Thomas Ryan is employed by the New York City Police Department.

4. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “4” of the complaint.

5. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “5” of the complaint.

6. Deny the allegations set forth paragraph “6” of the complaint, except admit that the Parks Department is an agency of the City of New York established pursuant to Chapter 21, Section 531, et seq. of the City Charter.

7. Admit the allegations set forth in paragraph “7” of the complaint.

8. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “8” of the complaint, except admit that Steven Simon is employed by the Parks Department as the Chief of Staff to the Department’s Manhattan Borough Commissioner.

9. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “9” of the complaint, except admit that Raymond Brown is employed by the Parks Department as the Director of Special Operations for the Parks Enforcement Patrol.

10. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “10” of the complaint, and aver that there is no Barbara Brown employed by the Parks Department who reports to Assistant Commissioner Linn, and further aver that the Parks Department has not been notified that any Barbara Brown has been served with a copy of this complaint.

11. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “11” of the complaint, except admit that this Court has jurisdiction over plaintiff’s claims.

12. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “12” of the complaint, except admit that venue is proper in the Southern District of New York.

13. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph "13" of the complaint.

14. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph "14" of the complaint.

15. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph "15" of the complaint, except admit that the NYPD was called.

16. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "16" of the complaint.

17. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph "17" of the complaint.

18. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph "18" of the complaint with regards to the FBI, except admit the NYPD conducted an investigation.

19. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "19" of the complaint, except admit that on June 26, 2006, a device was vouchered and that device was determined to be a Majiloon Balloon Pump.

20. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "20" of the complaint.

21. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "21" of the complaint.

22. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "22" of the complaint.

23. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "23" of the complaint.

24. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "24" of the complaint.

25. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph "25" of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff was transported to the 19th Precinct.

26. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph “26” of the complaint.

27. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations set forth in paragraph “27” of the complaint.

28. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph “28” of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff’s apartment was searched.

29. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph “29” of the complaint.

30. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph “30” of the complaint.

31. Deny the allegations contained in paragraph “31” of the complaint.

32. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “32” of the complaint, except admit that at various times, including in 2005 and 2006, plaintiff has obtained permits from the Parks Department to perform on Wallach Walk in Central Park.

33. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in the first sentence of paragraph “33” of the complaint. Deny the allegations set forth in the second sentence of paragraph “33” of the complaint, except admit that in passing, defendant Linn inquired in a conversational and friendly way whether plaintiff was the person he had read a newspaper article about. Deny the allegations set forth in the third sentence of paragraph “33” of the complaint.

34. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “34” of the complaint.

35. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “35” of the complaint, except admit that in July 2007 defendant Brown had a conversation with plaintiff about his performing in Central Park.

36. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “36” of the complaint.

37. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “37” of the complaint, and respectfully refer this Court to Title 56, Section 1-05(b) of the Rules of the City of New York (“RCNY”) for its full text and true meaning.

38. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “38” of the complaint, and aver that the language quoted by plaintiff is actually contained in RCNY Title 56, Section 1-05(c)(1), and respectfully refer this court to that section for full text and true meaning

39. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “39” of the complaint and respectfully refer this Court to RCNY Title 56, Section 1-03(b)(6) for its full text and true meaning.

40. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “40” of the complaint, and aver that pursuant to the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Mastrovincenzo v. City of New York, 435 F.3d 78 (2d Cir. 2006), it is entirely lawful for the Parks Department to require plaintiff to obtain a permit prior to painting faces and shaping balloons in Central Park.

41. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “41” of the complaint.

42. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “42” of the complaint, except admit that on July 7, 2007 Parks Enforcement Patrol Officer Metehan Eglimez issued a Notice of Violation returnable at the Environmental Control Board to plaintiff for violating RCNY Title 56, Section 1-03(b)(6).

43. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “43” of the complaint, except admit that at various times, including in 2005 and 2006, plaintiff has obtained permits from the Parks Department to perform on Wallach Walk in Central Park.

44. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “44” of the complaint to the extent they allege or purport to allege that defendants Linn or Simon acted improperly or contrary to law.

45. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “45” of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “44”, inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

46. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “46” of the complaint.

47. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “47” of the complaint.

48. Paragraph “48” of the complaint contains legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants deny the allegations.

49. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “49” of the complaint.

50. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “50” of the complaint.

51. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “51” of the complaint.

52. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “52” of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “51”, inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

53. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “53” of the complaint.

54. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “54” of the complaint.

55. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “55” of the complaint.

56. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “56” of the complaint.

57. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “57” of the complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “56”, inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

58. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “58” of the complaint.

59. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “59” of the complaint.

60. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “60” of the complaint.

61. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “61” of the complaint.

62. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “62” of the complaint.

63. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “63” of the complaint.

64. In response to paragraph “64” of the complaint, defendant repeats the responses to the paragraphs of the complaint incorporated by reference therein.

65. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraphs “65” and “66” of the complaint.

66. Admit the allegation set forth in paragraph “67” of the complaint.

67. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraphs “68” and “69” of the complaint.

68. In response to paragraph “70” of the complaint, defendant repeats the responses to the paragraphs of the complaint incorporated by reference therein.

69. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraphs “71,” “72,” “73,” “74” and “75” of the complaint.

70. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “76” of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to proceed as set forth therein.

71. In response to paragraph “77” of the complaint, defendant repeats the responses to the paragraphs of the complaint incorporated by reference therein.

72. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “78” of the complaint.

73. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “79” of the complaint, except admit that plaintiff purports to proceed as set forth therein.

74. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “80” of the complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

75. The complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

76. Defendants have not violated any rights, privileges or immunities secured to the plaintiff by the constitution or laws of the United States or the State of New York or any political subdivision thereof, nor have defendants violated any act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

77. Title 56, Sections 1-03(c)(1) and (c)(6) and 1-05(b) and (c)(1) are constitutional, valid and enforceable in all respects, including against plaintiff.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

78. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the complaint, the duties and functions of the City’s officials entailed the reasonable exercise of their proper and lawful discretion. Therefore, defendant City has governmental immunity from liability.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

79. The individual defendants have not violated any clearly established constitutional or statutory right of which a reasonable person would have known and therefore are protected by qualified immunity.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

80. Any injury alleged to have been sustained resulted from plaintiff's own culpable or negligent conduct and/or the intervening conduct of third parties and was not the proximate result of any act of the defendants.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

81. Plaintiff may not have satisfied all the conditions precedent to suit.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

82. There was probable cause for plaintiff's arrest, detention and prosecution.

AS AND FOR A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

83. Punitive damages cannot be assessed against the Department of Parks and Recreation.

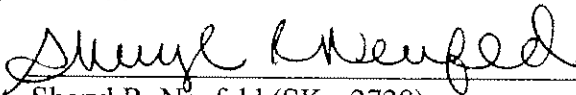
AS AND FOR A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

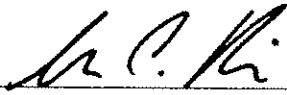
84. Plaintiff may have failed to comply with New York General Municipal Law §§ 50(e), 50(h) and 50(i).

WHEREFORE defendants respectfully request a judgment dismissing the complaint, awarding defendants their costs and disbursements herein, including reasonable attorney's fees, and granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
November 13, 2007

MICHAEL A. CARDOZO
Corporation Counsel of the
City of New York
Attorney for Defendants Thomas Ryan, Jack T.
Linn, Steve Simon, Ray Brown and the New York
City Department of Parks and Recreation
100 Church Street, Room 5-188
New York, New York 10007
(212) 788-1035

By: 
Sheryl R. Neufeld (SK - 2728)
Assistant Corporation Counsel


Suzette Corinne Rivera (SR 4272)
Assistant Corporation Counsel